

CHAPTER 31 GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS STATEMENT OF REASONS

Pursuant to Wyo. Stat. § 21-2-304(a)(iii), the Wyoming State Board of Education must prescribe uniform student content and performance standards for the common core of knowledge specified by Wyo. Stat. § 21-9-101(b)(i). The common core of knowledge includes reading/language arts, social studies, mathematics, science, fine and performing arts, physical education, health and safety, humanities, career/vocational education, foreign cultures and languages, applied technology, and government and civics.

After careful consideration, and with support from members of the Foreign Language Review Committee and the Fine and Performing Arts Review Committee, the Wyoming State Board of Education approved the adoption of the 2012 Revised Wyoming Content and Performance Standards for Foreign Language and Fine and Performing Arts.

The Board is promulgating revised rules for Foreign Language and Fine and Performing Arts. These standards define the knowledge and skills students should know and be able to do throughout their K-12 education so they can graduate from high school able to succeed in college and career.

Additionally, it is proposed that the Wyoming Content and Performance Standards be removed from the Chapter 31 Rules and renamed in their own chapter: Chapter 10: *Wyoming Content and Performance Standards*. This will enable educators, students, parents, and the general public to locate the current standards more easily. As

a result of this change, Chapter 31 will be renamed *Wyoming Graduation Requirements*.

Finally, Section 10 of the Chapter 31 Rules is being renamed from “Evidence” to “District Assessment System” to reflect the governor’s line-item veto of the phrase “Body of Evidence” during the July 2012 promulgation of the Chapter 31 Rules. Also, Section 10 now specifies that the District Assessment System applies to grades nine (9) through twelve (12). The purpose of explicitly stating this is to restore the status quo: Chapter 31 addresses high school requirements while Chapter 6 addresses the requirements for the entire K-12 system. The Board understands that additional changes to the rules governing district assessment systems will be necessary as a result of the Wyoming Accountability Education Act.

These rules meet the minimum substantive state statutory requirements and are within the Board and Department’s statutory authority. No part of this action should be interpreted as any attempt to dictate curriculum at the national or state level.